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A new furniture goods depart-
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MAKING DYNAMITE.

Process of Manufacturing the Powerful
Explosive.Few human inventions are responsi-
ble as once for so much evil as dynamite.
Terrible in its power in the
hands of unscrupulous men it can
cause awful destruction yet, at the
same time, only through its influence
is extensive mining, railroad build-
ing, and engineering possible. The
basis of dynamite is nitro-glycerine
which was discovered in 1846 and is
made by injecting glycerine under
pressure into a mixture of nitric and
sulphuric acids. The result was a
liquid which exploded with the
slightest shock or jar and was for
that reason excessively dangerous.Alfred Nobel, a Swede, thereupon
began experimenting to find some-
thing which could be mixed with the
nitro-glycerine and modify its phys-
ical condition. At last he selected
"kieselguhr," or earth meal, as the
most suitable material; and up to the
present no more serviceable absorb-
ent has been discovered. Kieselguhr
is the mineral remains of a kind of
moss which grows in stagnant waters.
The stem consists mainly of silica;
and when the organic substance of
the plant decays, the siliceous part
remains and retains the shape it had
as a plant—a kind of tube.The raw kieselguhr is calcined in a
special form of kiln to drive off water
and organic matter; and is subse-
quently ground and sifted to remove
all sand, after which it is incorpo-
rated with nitro-glycerine in the pro-
portion of one part of kieselguhr to
three parts of nitro-glycerine, the
resulting product being dynamite, a
reddish-brown, moist plastic earth,
having a specific gravity ranging be-
tween 1.35 and 1.65.The enormous trade done in ex-
plosives may be inferred from the
following figures: The world's out-
put of dynamite in 1870 was reck-
oned to be only eleven tons; whereas,
last year, no fewer than some 15,000
tons of nitro-glycerine compounds are
computed to have been manufac-
tured.So rapid is the march of science,
especially in the production of ex-
plosives, that Nobel's dynamite is
being closely pressed by the new ge-
latinous explosives, also the product
of the same master mind. These
latest inventions consist chiefly in
mixtures in various proportions of
nitro-glycerine and nitro-cotton, the
latter being practically dissolved in
the former. Both blasting gelatine
and gelatin dynamite possess the
power of resisting the action of water,
in conjunction with the maximum
of explosive power in the minimum
of bulk.

Lifting a Dead Tiger.

When one comes to lifting a dead
tiger one becomes fully aware of its
weight; so does one arrive at due ap-
preciation of its strength after once
feeling forearm, which is one splen-
did mass of steel-like muscle. Then
one understands how the tiger in his
prime can throw a bullock over its
shoulder and canter away with it.
Then, too, one may well come to
pooh-pooh the claim of the lion to be
styled the king of beasts. But how-
ever interesting may be the study of
the tiger in this particular phase
once or so, it pulls after a time; lift-
ing it is peculiarly hard and hot work,
and it is dirty work also, and is some-
times made particularly exasperating
by the laches of the elephant se-
lected for the carriage of the tiger.
For that intellectual beast is required
to kneel to receive its freight, and
to kneel long enough to allow that
freight to be hoisted on to the pad
and fastened on; and, as often as not,
it will rise at the critical moment,
just when the tiger has been raised
to the edge of the pad, and tumble
the tiger and some of its lifters on to
the ground, and so bring about the
status quo ante.The elephant has wonderful intelli-
gence in some utterly useless direc-
tions. It will, for example, pick up
a pin with its trunk, and, I dare say,
with sufficient encouragement would
allow that, and convert its inter-
ior economy into a pin-economy; but
I have never known one to direct its
talents to the simplification of tiger-
padding, although I have seen many
devote their minds and bodies to the
unnecessary duty of adding to the
difficulties of that operation.—Black-
wood's Magazine.

Can Idiots Be Cured?

Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth, writing in
an English medical journal, takes a
very sane view of the effect of
systematic training on idiots. In re-
viewing the statistics of one of the
largest training institutions for im-
beciles in England, he shows that
idiots have been improved, educated
and even cured; not one in 1,000 has
been entirely refractory to treatment;
not one in 100 has not been made
more happy and healthy; more than
20 per cent. have been taught to con-
form to social and moral law, and of
working like the third of a man;
more than 40 per cent. have become
capable of the ordinary transactions
of life under friendly control, of un-
derstanding moral and social ab-
stractions, of working like two-thirds
of a man; and 25 to 30 per cent.
have come nearer and nearer the
standard of manhood, until some of
them have defied the scrutiny of good
judges when compared with ordinary
young men and women. It was
found, after systematic inquiry from
year to year as to the career of pupils
discharged on completion of their
seven years' course of training, that
10 per cent. were, or had been, earn-
ing wages; 5 per cent. were remuner-
atively employed at home, and 3.5
per cent. were (in their friends'
opinion) capable of earning wages if
suitable positions could be found for
them. About 22 per cent. were re-
ported to be more or less useful to
their friends at home, while another
22 per cent. were reported as of little
or no use; 20 per cent. had gravita-
ted to work houses and lunatic asy-
lums, and the remaining 8.5 per cent.
had died.There should be a room in every
house where the man of the house
can hide, and be secure from in-
trusion.If arithmetics could be printed
like show bills, and pasted on the
walls, boys could do their examples
better.On the bloomer and bicycle out-
come depends eventually the life or
death of the side-saddle.